



## Swift Kayak Maintenance

### Hull Maintenance

Although your kayak's hull is structurally maintenance free, here are a few suggestions for maintaining your kayak's attractive appearance:

1. After each use, clean the kayak's interior & exterior. Use a mild soap & water solution or a boat wash product. Use a soft bristle brush to clean all dirt & mud from inside the cockpit.
2. At the start of the season, after cleaning the kayak, apply a good quality marine wax with UV protection and buff (NuFinish or 3M's Formula 303). This brightens the colour and reduces the visibility of surface scratches.
3. For hard to remove stains, use a cloth with a little Methyl Hydrate. For your safety, use rubber gloves when working with this product.
4. This is an excellent time to inspect your kayak for damage. Unless the outer gel coat is broken and the inner cloth exposed, there is nothing to worry about. Surface scratches are a normal part of the paddling experience and are simply cosmetic blemishes. However, if you think there is a problem, contact Swift for advice. If your hull has faded or is covered with scratches, it might be possible to restore the beauty to your hull. Ask for an estimate.
5. This is an excellent time to tighten all deck hardware using a 3/8" wrench & Philips screwdriver. If you have a skeg, check it for ease of movement up & down. If your skeg resists deploying when you move the lever to the rear of the slot DO NOT force it. Check the skeg box to see if grit, sand or other forms of debris have found their way inside and are causing the skeg to jam. Clean out the skeg box with a hose to avoid debris buildup.

### Boat Storage

It is best to store your kayak with the deck facing down. This may involve resting it on a pair of saw horses on foam kayak blocks, or suspending it from the ceiling in a sling. If you own tie-down straps that you use when transporting your boat, these can be used to create the sling. Simply run the strap(s) through a lashpoint on the ceiling (a rafter, a hanger hook, etc) and run the cord through the cam to connect it into a loop. Use at least two straps to create a base for the kayak, preferably one strap on either side of the cockpit. Slide the kayak into the hanging strap loops, then progressively tighten each strap, gradually raising the kayak towards the roof. Be careful raising and lowering your kayak from the ceiling since a fall to the hard garage floor will certainly damage your hull. DO NOT hang your kayak from the handles at the bow and stern. These cause unnecessary strain on the boat and may result in gel coat damage.

Storing your kayak indoors is ideal, especially those with clear coat hulls. Clear coat hulls can be susceptible to UV degradation, so the less exposure to harmful UV rays the better your hull will be. If stored outdoors, the kayak must be off the ground and protected from large accumulations of snow or ice. Portable saw horses make excellent kayak support stands, simply attach the kayak blocks on each sawhorse to cushion the hull. Do not cover the kayak with tarps or plastic as this may cause discoloration or unwanted moisture damage. Overhangs, porches or open sheds work well to protect your kayak's hull from the sun, which will eventually cause the colour to fade. When storing your kayak for long periods, open the hatches to air out/dry out the storage compartments.

### Swift Canoe & Kayak

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